

Henry County Health Department
Public Health Nursing
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April 12, 2011

Over the years, we have seen the value of vaccination in protecting our children against diseases that once caused severe illness, life-long deformities and even death. With the advent of immunizations, seventeen vaccine preventable diseases are no longer a threat to our children's health and well being. We have been able to celebrate this public health success story, because of our efforts and those of our community partners in immunizing the children of Henry County. Because of our desire for continued success in vaccinating our children and preventing disease, we are making you aware of changes that will become effective July 1, 2011 at the Henry County Health Department and throughout the state of Indiana.

In the last few weeks, all health departments in Indiana were notified of changes in the state Immunization Program. To continue our participation in this program, the Henry County Health Department is required to comply with these changes. The new requirements closely examine health insurance programs that provide vaccine coverage. The intention is NOT to leave children without the protection that vaccines provide, but rather to distribute vaccine costs to insurance policies that include vaccine coverage. This sharing of costs will allow limited public dollars to be stretched to further provide vaccine coverage to the children throughout Henry County and Indiana.

Currently we now immunize children who have:

- any form of Medicaid
- no health insurance (uninsured)
- private insurance but because of any number of factors, vaccines are not covered (they are considered underinsured). Currently underinsured is classified as private insurance with no vaccine coverage, limited coverage, has a high deductible to be met, or there is a co-pay or coverage is percentage based (such as 80/20, 70/30 etc.)

Beginning July 1, 2011, there will be some changes to the state Immunization Program eligibility. The changes will affect those children who fall into the underinsured eligibility. Children will be considered underinsured only if their private insurance policy:

- does not include any vaccine coverage
- does not cover specific vaccines under the policy
- has a yearly dollar cap in vaccine coverage and that cap has been met or exceeded

All other children who have private health insurance, but do not meet one or more of the above criteria, will no longer be considered underinsured even if their policy:

- requires that a high deductible be met first
- has a preventable services component that pays for vaccines
- requires a co-pay
- has percentage based coverage (such as 80/20, 70/30, etc.)

After July 1, 2011, these children will be considered fully insured and therefore will no longer be able to receive vaccines from the Henry County Health Department's state Immunization Program. These children will need to visit their private providers to receive immunizations. Parents must know the terms and provisions of their child's health insurance policy in regards to vaccination coverage when making their appointments at the Henry County Health Department. Each child's eligibility for vaccines will be assessed when immunization appointments are made at the Henry County Health Department and again when they arrive for their appointment.

Please note there will be no changes in eligibility for children who have any form of Medicaid or who have no health insurance (uninsured). These children will continue to receive vaccines at the Health Department under the state Immunization Program as they have in the past.

Adult Vaccine Eligibility Changes

In addition, there will also be changes in eligibility as defined by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) for our adult clients (19 years and older). These changes will also take effect on July 1, 2011. We currently purchase vaccines privately for our clients who travel out of the country and we will also make these vaccines available for other adults who wish to purchase them at cost with an administration fee.

We will be notifying the public of these upcoming changes soon. We wanted you to be aware of this information; so you may be better equipped to answer your client's questions once the information is made public. We ask that you please bear with us as this transition in eligibility takes place. If you have any questions, please contact us at the Henry County Health Department, Public Health Nursing, 765-521-7053 or dmiller@henryco.net. As always, our goal is the protection of our children.

We join with you in Caring for Our Community,

Deb Miller, RN
Director of Nursing
Henry County Health Department